

## CLAIMS

1. A method of producing crosslinked acrylic moisture absorbing fibers, which comprises applying a crosslinking treatment with a hydrazine compound and a hydrolytic treatment with sodium carbonate to acrylic fibers made of an acrylonitrile-base copolymer containing at least 1% by weight and not more than 5% by weight a comonomer having an acidic group as a comonomer component.

2. A method of producing crosslinked acrylic moisture absorbing fibers, which comprises introducing a crosslinked structure into acrylic fibers made of an acrylonitrile-base copolymer containing at least 1% by weight and not more than 5% by weight a comonomer having an acidic group as a comonomer component using a hydrazine compound such that the increase in the nitrogen content becomes from 0.4 to 2.0 mmol/g and carrying out a hydrolytic reaction with sodium carbonate by controlling such that the amount of the carboxylic group becomes from 0.6 to 4.0 mmol/g.

3. The crosslinked acrylic moisture absorbing fibers according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the comonomer having the acidic group is at least one kind of the compound selected from the group consisting of a compound having a carboxyl group and the salts thereof and a compound having a sulfonic acid group and the salts thereof.

4. A crosslinked acrylic moisture absorbing fibers obtained by claim 1 having a moisture absorbing rate at 20°C and

65% RH of at least 15% and not higher than 50%, and a degree of swelling by water of at least 10% and not higher than 100%.

09703987-110100